

KARO-ECHO April 9, 2018 Minutes

Attending, Mike KM6CXI, Rob K6RJM, Texx KG6ATH, Hal KK6NDF, Kevin KI6KNP, Jay KJ6WSS, Karen KK6ZPM, Marian KC6OBK, Jerry K6KOP, Don NI6A.

The meeting began on time at 7:30 PM at the Kensington Community Center

The minutes were briefly discussed and accepted/approved

Old Business:

Regarding an Outstanding Service Award to Ginny, Marian and Hal agreed to work on a suitable award as an action item.

Activity Reports:

Hal reviewed the recent CERT Area Coordinators Meeting where:

Cert IDs were discussed

The Development of a CERT Field Operations Manual was discussed

Planning for an upcoming September K/E CERT drill was discussed

The use of Google Apps as an organizing tool was discussed

75 new signups for the upcoming K/E CERT trainings was announced

Outreach ideas to PTA, Scouts, etc were discussed

It was decided that there was a need to update the CERT Staging Area list on City WebPage

How to communicate to the EOC?

Texx, kg6ath, suggested that the use of standard telephone land lines may be underused and useful for CERT AREA ICPs to report to EOC.

Outreach/PR Program

Don provided a brief history of why KAROECHO may have a less than sterling reputation due to losing responses to past mailings, attendance sheets, signup sheets, and the like, as failure to follow through is a bad mark on KARO ECHO. The need for an outreach coordinator was proposed for follow up because KAROECHO needs more hams in order to do the job. Due to no volunteers Rob and Don agreed to continue to take this on temporally until a volunteer lead is established.

Rob and Don have a mailing planned to all new hams in EC/K since 2016 that will be sent out in April. A second mailing is planned to the existing hams who previously had shown interest; but KAROECHO did not do followup. Texx stated that he already had a list of all K/E hams sorted by CERT Areas and volunteered to provide it to Rob and Don.

Action item: Rob and Don to follow through on outreach regardless.

Texx suggested that we dump Ham radio and focus on GMRS “I have seen the futility of ham radio”. No motion to officially disband was entered.

BeCertainn (GMRS CERT Meeting at the Berkeley Fire Training Center)

Don reported on the BeCertainn GMRS meeting. They have a GMRS CERT plan and repeater (Gmrs ch. 22 + 5 MHz pl. 88.2. They intend to link all Berkeley CERT neighborhoods together for mutual aid using GMRS. The presentation, by Geoff Lomax was very informative. His main points were that damage is not uniformly distributed in disasters, nor are available resources; hence sharing of personnel and other resources is cogent. Linkage via a GMRS/Ham message center would be able to provide comms in and out of the EOC.

Jay and Karen reported that the Lamorinda GMRS repeater above Grizzly Peak is also available for our use on a secondary basis as long as there is no need in Orinda, Moraga, and Lafayette (Ch. 21, PL 77)

Karen also reported on the wa6dur repeater on San Pablo ridge is also available. (442.15 + 5 MHz pl.100)

Don reported on **NALCO's** visit to Berkeley Fire Station 3. All Berkeley Fire Stations have ham radios, antennas, and emergency power. A MESH node is planned for Fire Station 7.

Don reported that we need a **net manager**. 19 hams checked into the net last week. Net manager duties were listed. Duties include finessing the script, planning net exercises, assuring net control stations, keeping a log of all check-ins, etc.

Rob, KAROECHO IT wizard, reported on our current web presence status since we lost control of the old wiki. Rob created the karoecho.net which makes use of google aps. It can provide a mailing list data base ([HYPERLINK "mailto:members@karoecho.net"](mailto:members@karoecho.net) members@karoecho.net) with an unsubscribe option which can be used as our Newsletter mailing list, agendas, and minutes. The membership approved the idea and the motion passed.

Action Item: Rob to continue to develop the karoecho.net web presence

Ham/CERT Interface

Rob and Don presented a three tiered flow chart for a combined FRS/GMRS and ham joint message center with a one page primer. Such is to be handed out at the next CERT training session. It presents how FRS/GMRS can interoperate at a message center setting.

Kevin, addressed the possibility of establishing a **CERT communications module** for EC/Kensington CERT training program. Such is under discussion.

Kevin was asked what the EOC/FD needs were pertaining to ham radio. The FD needs how

intelligence gets to the EOC from the ham areas, develop the auxiliary radio system, create portable/flexible go kits, skilled operators, mobile capability in order to receive reports from the field such as windshield surveys (size-up reports), large fires, gas line leaks and explosions, etc.

Texx surmised that “the ultimate Go-Kit is a mobile system.”

Kevin said that both a mobile cache and portable cache are in the works. Kevin also mentioned that the EMS/FD are converting to Anderson Powerpole DC connectors for reason of interoperability. Don mentioned that he would be willing to repurpose the old power connections at our served agencies with Anderson powerpole connectors so there might be seamless interoperability between all equipment.

The portable cache is being developed for interoperability including a tripod mast, coax, forms, pencils, gain antenna, and emergency power.

The advantage of **mobile** stations is that they can be easily dispatched to any needed location; while the advantage of a **portable** go-kit is that it is not tied down to an automobile, can be co-located in the ICP, and can utilize a high gain antenna. Both systems have their special value.

Presence at Community Events: Hal volunteered himself, Marlene, and Texx to work outreach at tri-city safety day, national Night Out, Fourth of July, and other community events.

Jerry suggested we go back to a **roll call** by callsign because there was doubling and need for relay. Texx mentioned that there was no need to call roll. Since the Net Script already was divided into four sections (Alpha-Delta, Echo-Lima, Mike through Romeo, and Alpha through Zulu), it was decided to use the current system as it is more realistic for training purposes.

Tassajara Park

Mike, KM6CXI, proposed testing the outdoor antenna at Tassajara Park and installing an outdoor patch box to access the transmission line. A discussion on how to do that. Texx suggested outdoor N connectors because they are rainproof. Don mentioned that UHF (PL-259) connectors can be made rainproof when skill is applied. Texx suggested that all members purchase “N” connector adaptors. No motion was proposed to the members.

The training session was cancelled due to time limitations and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.